

memorandum

DATE: 30 September 1997

W9R3, -963-4459s

63/86-36

REPLY TO: W9R3
ATTN OF: W9R3

SUBJECT: Understanding USSID 18 and Contextual Identifications -
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: W Group Reporting Elements

1. (~~C-CCO~~)

01/23/97
[REDACTED]

2. (~~C-CCO~~) According to the U.S. Identities in SIGINT Manual, a U.S. person is identified by context when the contents of a report tend to pinpoint a particular individual. This guidance also applies to corporations and vessels or aircraft that are entitled to USSID 18 protection. As a general rule, analysts must select generic terms to replace the U.S. identity and must present the report details in such a way that the customer cannot determine the identity. Reporters should refrain from the use of specific terminology and personal identifiers

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[REDACTED] that can directly lead to the identification of a U.S. entity even though the identity has been obscured in the report. Also, keep in mind that identification does not depend on whether the report recipient knows or can deduce the obscured name. If a U.S. person can be reasonably identified by the content of a report, then the analyst has violated the contextual identification rule, and therefore, the report must be cancelled, reworded and reissued to eliminate the identifying information. Further, any cancellation done for reasons of contextual identification must be accounted for in the USSID 18 Quarterly Report to the Inspector General.

3. (~~C-CCO~~) Selection of a generic term often depends on the context of the report. Even though a specific name may be replaced with a generic term, the contents of the report may reveal the identity. For example, [REDACTED] is known to be associated with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED], the generic reference to [REDACTED] identifies the [REDACTED] by context. In this case, the more generic term is [REDACTED]. As a rule of thumb, an analyst must always select the most generic term to avoid identifying a U.S. entity contextually. Additionally, an analyst should not intentionally choose a generic term knowing that his/her readers will be able to make the

identification.

4. (~~SECRET~~) Finally with respect to U.S. corporations, firms, and associations, bear in mind that the place of incorporation determines whether a company is considered to be a U.S. person. If incorporated in the United States, an entity is a U.S. person unless a foreign government openly acknowledges that it directs and controls that company. However, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

This statement would contextually identify the U.S. parent company.

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5. (~~SECRET~~) If you have any questions regarding contextual identifications or other USSID 18 matters, please contact [REDACTED] WSR3, on 963-4459s. She will work closely with P9212 to ensure that all matters are handled in accordance with DO reporting policy.

[REDACTED]

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Leadair, SR3

cc:

[REDACTED]

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